

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in light of the forgoing amendments and the Examiner's determination that claims 1-9, 12-32 and 34 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the informalities identified by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 3-9 and 12-30 have been amended.

Claims 31-34 have been cancelled, without prejudice to their resubmission.

Claims 1-9 and 12-30 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being an independent claim.

Support for the amendments is found throughout the specification. The amendments are designed to address the informalities identified by the Examiner in the May 6, 2008 Office Action, and introduce no new matter.

Interview with the Examiner

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of telephonic interviews concerning the pending claims. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's time and effort in connection with the examination of this application.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 1 because "[regarding the final paragraph . . . the limitations listed appear to be directed to structural elements rather than adding additional steps in the method." Claim 1 has been amended, as suggested by the Examiner, to modify the "adjoining" step by "thereby forming a substantially complete and substantially continuous RF shield operative to prevent FR signals from interfering with an NMR procedure conducted using the NMR magnet."

In the Office Action, the Examiner also objected to claims 3-9 and 12-34 because as written they do not set forth any additional steps in the method. Claims 31-34 have been

cancelled. Claims 3-9 and 12-30 have been rewritten, as suggested by the Examiner, to set forth one or more additional steps in the method.

The Examiner further objected to claims 13 and 14 as including improper means plus function language. These claims have also been written to address these objections.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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